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Reference: DEPTTEL 489, October 23, 1953.

Following summary information regarding Cox and Towers obtained from Dutch ex-POWs who have returned Netherlands during interrogation here by USAF team.

Homer M. Cox, born Oklahoma 1920 or 1921, home address 1140 Oak Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Cox Sergeant MP detachment Berlin and was kidnapped 1949 by Soviets while walking with German girl friend Soviet sector. Cox maintained reserved attitude towards fellow prisoners. According several ex-POWs, Cox actually had rank Lieutenant, but Soviet camp authorities invariably referred to him as Sergeant. Cox has tattoo marks of snake on right arm and girl with western hat on left arm and reported to have been deep-sea diver in civilian life.

Leland Towers reportedly born San Francisco, 1924 and apprehended by Russians either along Finnish-Soviet border or in Bay of Finland while connected with US Merchant Marine. Towers said to speak fluent Spanish and Swedish and to have some knowledge of German and Dutch. He stated to be highly intelligent and to possess considerable knowledge military matters such as infantry tactics and to be familiar with various types of fire arms and bombs. Towers gave impression of being mentally depressed to verge of insanity.

Cox and Towers transferred POW repatriation camp at Volga Lag, which apparently part Shcherbakov Camp in June, 1953 from Camp at Vorkuta. Both men at Shcherbakov when Dutch ex-POWs left camp October. Both men interviewed several occasions by officials Soviet External Affairs Department, last interview taking place September, 1953.

Interrogees had impression Cox and Towers scheduled for repatriation in near future. Henk Maurer, Dutch ex-POW now living Friedland, Germany, and another ex-POW with surname Kok residing 39 Juliusstrasse, Essen, Germany reportedly able to give additional information on Cox and Towers.

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